



OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH  
BOCA GRANDE, FLORIDA

# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

## Boca Grande, Florida

Father Anthony Hewitt, Pastor

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)

8:00 A.M.

Saturday Vigil

5:00 P.M.

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Confessions: Saturday

By Appointment

Web address:

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

OnlineGiving

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/>

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

### NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear People of God,

**Holy Hour is every Tuesday at 10:00 am.** We will start with Exposition of the Blessed Eucharist, then silent adoration, and ending with Benediction at 11:00 am. This is a beautiful opportunity to spend time before our Lord and to offer prayers for our needs. It is my hope that we pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life during this time with Jesus, as well as the renewal of Church in the Eucharist the world over. May this time before Jesus bring us grace and healing. Below are the prayers you might want to pray at the Holy Hour.

Father Anthony

### INSTALLATION OF FATHER ANTHONY

All are invited - On October 1st Bishop Dewane will install Father Anthony Hewitt as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy at the 10:30am mass. The Bishop will join Father Anthony and parishioners for a celebration lunch after mass in the Parish Life Center. All are invited to attend and officially welcome Father Anthony to OLM. **Please RSVP for the meal by September 25th** to Ken Parker at [kbparker45@gmail.com](mailto:kbparker45@gmail.com) or 813-760-8968.

Volunteers Needed - Volunteers are needed to assist with the installation celebration. Please also email or call Ken Parker to join the volunteer team for the October 1st celebration.

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29: SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS—FEAST

Patron Saints of soldiers, police, paramedics, and the sick and dying (Michael); messengers, postal workers, broadcasters, and expectant mothers (Gabriel); travelers, the blind, medical workers, and matchmakers (Raphael)

*The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition. Who are they? St. Augustine says: "Angel" is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit;' if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel:' from what they are, 'spirit,' from what they do, 'angel'" (St. Augustine, En. in Ps. 103, 1, 15: PL 37, 1348). With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they "always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" they are the "mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Mt 18:10; Ps 103:20).*

*As purely spiritual creatures, angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness.*  
~Catechism of the Catholic Church #328–330

In the fifth or sixth century, an important Church theologian, given the name Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, used the many references in the Sacred Scriptures to clearly articulate what has become the traditional understanding of the hierarchy of angels. In the thirteenth century, Saint Thomas Aquinas built upon that teaching. Both taught that there are nine choirs in the hierarchy. The nine choirs are further divided into three triads. The three highest, comprising the first triad (Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones), is devoted exclusively to the service of God, worshiping Him continuously. The second triad (Dominions, Virtues, and Powers) is tasked with the governance of the created world and the entire Universe. The third triad (Principalities, Archangels, and Angels) is closest to humanity, acting as mediators between God and man. It is the Archangels whom we honor.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are numerous mentions of the heavenly spirits. In the Old Testament, they stood at the entrance to the Garden of Eden, directed Abraham, stayed his hand at the sacrifice of Isaac, destroyed Sodom and protected Lot, spoke to, and wrestled with Jacob, went before Moses and the Israelites, and interacted with Israel's kings and prophets. In the New Testament, the Archangel Gabriel announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Jesus often spoke of the workings of angels in His preaching. They ministered to Him during His agony in the garden, were present at His Resurrection, and helped set Peter free from prison.

Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that every human being is assigned a guardian angel. The archangels are next in the hierarchy of angelic spirits and serve humanity directly, performing the most important tasks. The three Archangels we honor today are the only three mentioned in the Bible. However, earlier Jewish traditions name seven archangels, and some speculate that there might be a whole host of archangels whom God uses to assist with the most important aspects of our lives. Raphael describes himself as one of the seven who stand before God.

Michael, whose name means "Who is like God?," is mentioned several times in the Bible. The Book of Daniel speaks of him as the prince who stands up for the people of Israel in a protective way (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, and 12:1). The Letter of Jude speaks of Michael fighting against Satan in a dispute over the body of Moses, "Yet the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil in a dispute over the body of Moses, did not venture to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him but said, 'May the Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 1:9). The Book of Revelation also reveals Michael's battle with Satan, casting him from Heaven, "Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven" (Revelation 12:7–8). Based on these passages, Michael is seen as the great defender against Satan and his demons, the protector of the Church, and the Prince of the Angels. Though Saint Thomas assigns him to the second lowest level of the hierarchy of the choirs of angels, others (Saints Basil, Robert Bellarmine, and Bonaventure) have speculated that he directs the entire host of angels, taking the former place of Lucifer, the light-bearer, who was a Seraphim of the highest realm. The prayer to Saint Michael, who defends us in battle, was written by Pope Leo XIII and was prayed thereafter at the end of every Mass until the reforms after Vatican II. Today, it is still prayed in many churches and widely in private devotion.

Gabriel, whose name means "God is my strength" or "Strong man of God," appears several times in the Bible. In the Book of Daniel, Gabriel appears to interpret Daniel's vision (Daniel 8:15–27; 9:20–27). In the New Testament, Gabriel appears to Zechariah in the Temple to reveal the birth of his son, John the Baptist (Luke 1:5–20), and to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce the birth of the Messiah (Luke 1:26–38). It might have also been Gabriel who spoke to Saint Joseph in a dream, dispelling his fear about taking Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:18–25). For these reasons, Gabriel often appears in sacred art blowing a trumpet for his role in conveying divine messages, guiding prophets, and participating in significant events that shape human history.

Raphael, whose name means “God has healed,” is mentioned by name only in the Book of Tobit. Tobit was a wealthy and devout Israelite who had been deported from his home to Nineveh by the Assyrian king.

While in exile, he suffered from blindness and sent his son, Tobias, to his homeland to gather his money. On the way, Raphael appeared to Tobias in human form, using the name Azariah. Raphael protected him on the journey and led him to a woman named Sarah who lost seven husbands on the night of their weddings, due to a demon’s attack. The archangel united them in marriage, expelled the demon, and accompanied them back to Tobit, whom he healed. He then revealed to them, “I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord” (Tobit 12:15). It is speculated that Raphael is also one of the seven angels in the Book of Revelation who each receives one of the seven trumpets, “And I saw that the seven angels who stood before God were given seven trumpets” (Revelation 8:2).

Though great mystery surrounds the full nature and function of these glorious angelic spirits, what is abundantly clear is that God has used them throughout the course of salvation history. Today, we can confidently assert that God continues to pour forth His grace upon us through the mediation of the angels, especially Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. For some reason, God specifically revealed the names of these spirits to us, and that invites us to call upon their mediation. As mediators, they do more than pray for us. They are entrusted with the duty of implementing God’s will.

As we honor these three archangels today, call upon their intercession, seek their mediation, and trust that they will accomplish the duties they are given. Through Michael, seek God’s protection. Through Gabriel, seek God’s revelation. And through Raphael, seek God’s healing. They will not let you down.

*Glorious Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, I entrust myself to your angelic mediation. Please set into motion God’s plan for my life, protect me from the evil one, deliver to me God’s holy word, and heal me of my sin. I thank you for the glorious duties you fulfill in the divine mission and rely upon you in my life. Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for me and mediate God’s grace to me. Amen.*

## **SEMINARIANS STUDYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD**

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Venice Diocesan Council of Catholic Women SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE AND EDUCATE OUR FUTURE PRIESTS through the SEMINARIAN FUND!

The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Venice invites you to join them in celebrating PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY on September 24, 2023. Our diocese is educating 11 men in various seminaries. A donation of ANY AMOUNT will be a great help. To take part, please send your donation (made out to VDCCW Seminarian Fund) plus \$1.00 per “honor of” card (to cover postage and printing) to: Cornelia Zanetti, Seminarian Fund Guardian, 5808 Gulf Drive, #204, Holmes Beach, FL 34217.

**Every Tuesday at 10:00 am come spend an hour with Our Lord Jesus Christ with Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction.**

### **Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist**

My Lord Jesus Christ, Your Eucharistic presence teaches me how to love as you have loved me. In your great love for me you continue to give yourself, body, blood, soul, and divinity in this sacrament of your love. As I pray here in your Eucharistic presence, enkindle in me the fire of your gospel. Nourish me with your love and compassion, so that I may be your living presence to all I meet. Amen.

### **Prayer of Adoration**

I adore you Jesus, true God, and true man, present in the holy Eucharist, kneeling before you and united in spirit with all the faithful on earth and all the saints in heaven. In gratitude for so great a blessing, I love you with all my heart, for you are worthy of all praise and adoration. Lord Jesus Christ, may I never offend you with my lack of love. May your Eucharistic presence refresh me in body and soul. Mary, Mother of the Eucharistic Lord, pray for me and obtain for me a greater love for Jesus. Amen.

### **Going Forth**

Lord Jesus Christ, I have spent this time of adoration and prayer in your Eucharistic presence. Fill my life with love, joy, peace, and kindness. Transform me by the power of the Holy Spirit into a living image of your compassionate presence. May I go forth from this hour of adoration and prayer to be your hands, feet, and heart to all those I meet. Risen Jesus, may I be surrounded by the radiance of your love. Amen.



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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

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September 19, 2023

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month in October and observes the first Sunday of that month as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to teach, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable and promote a greater respect for life.

The Catholic Church remains at the forefront in speaking out on the issue of the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, and at every point in between. The Church's entire social doctrine is guided by the fundamental principle that every human life has innate dignity and incomparable value. Fulfilling Christ's command to love one another takes shape in our practice of this radical solidarity; solidarity by making the well-being of others our own.

**On the weekend of September 30 and October 1, 2023**, Parishes across the Diocese of Venice will conduct a special collection to enhance this life-affirming work. The funds remain in the Diocese of Venice and facilitate a Culture of Life as a faith community in Southwest Florida and support Respect Life Programs, among them, Walking with Moms in Need.

Please continue to pray for a greater appreciation of the sacredness of all human life and be as generous as you can in this annual collection.

Let us remain united in prayer and action. May God bless you for your dedication and generosity!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida